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#### SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the Utility Model

Fault diagnosis device for water temperature sensor

- 2. Claims for the Utility Model
- (1) A fault diagnosis device for water temperature sensor in an internal combustion engine including the water temperature sensor composed of thermistor, comprising timer means for detecting that a specified time has elapsed since the internal combustion engine has been started, and comparison means having a reference temperature corresponding to the lower limit of the engine temperature which may be resulted after the elapse of the specified time, for determining that the water temperature is in an abnormal state when the temperature detected after the specified time has elapsed is equal to or lower than the reference temperature.
- 3. Detailed Description of the Utility Model

Field of Industrial Application

The present utility model relates to a fault diagnosis device for diagnosing a fault in a water temperature sensor composed of thermistor attached to an internal combustion engine, and specifically, for diagnosing the presence or absence of abnormality in its feature.



#### Prior Art

In recent internal combustion engines, many kinds of electronic control systems are put into practical use for fuel injection amount control, idle rotation speed control, ignition timing control and the like. In order to execute there controls, an engine temperature is one of the very important factors. The engine temperature is normally represented by an engine cooling water temperature, and a water temperature sensor composed of a negative characteristic thermister is generally used for detecting the cooling water temperature.

As a fault diagnosis device for this kind of water temperature sensor, a device described in, for example, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 54-141926 has been conventionally known. This device detects an abnormality by comparing an output voltage from the water temperature sensor with specified reference voltages. As the reference voltages, a voltage value corresponding to an extremely high engine temperature which is normally impossible and a voltage value corresponding to an extremely low engine temperature which is normally impossible are selected. In other words, this device determines that an abnormality, that is, short-circuit or disconnection has occurred in the water temperature sensor when the detected temperature is at extremely high temperature or



extremely low temperature which is impossible as an engine temperature.

Problems which the Invention Solves

However, the foregoing conventional fault diagnosis device can detect only a state in which the water temperature sensor is completely disconnected or short-circuited.

For example, when an excessively large voltage is applied to the water temperature sensor composed of thermistor, the resistance value thereof becomes larger than a normal state as a whole (see FIG. 5), and the detected temperature considerably deviates from a correct value. Such a characteristic abnormality in the water temperature sensor cannot be detected by the foregoing conventional device.

Means by which the Problem is Solved

In most cases, the characteristic abnormality in the water temperature sensor composed of thermistor exhibits such a change that the resistance value becomes large, that is, the detected temperature deviates toward a low temperature.

In view of the foregoing tendency, in the present utility model, if the temperature detected at the time when the warming-up of the internal combustion engine has proceeded to some extent is low, the water temperature sensor is determined as being in an abnormal state. Specifically, as shown in FIG.

1, a fault diagnosis device for water temperature sensor according to the present utility model in an internal combustion engine 2 including the water temperature sensor 1 composed of thermistor, includes timer means 3 for detecting that a specified time has elapsed since the internal combustion engine 2 has been started, and comparison means 4 having a reference temperature corresponding to the lower limit of the engine temperature which may be resulted after the elapse of the specified time, for determining that the water temperature is in an abnormal state when the temperature detected after the specified time has elapsed is equal to or lower than the reference temperature.

#### Function

The engine temperature after a specified time has elapsed since the internal combustion engine 2 has been started is experimentally obtained. As a matter of course, since the engine temperature differs depending on the outside air temperature and the like, the case where an increase in the temperature is the smallest under the normal use conditions is assumed and some deviations are allowed for this temperature, and thus-obtained lower limit temperature is used as a reference temperature.

If the water temperature sensor 1 has a characteristic abnormality caused by application of an excessively large

voltage thereto, the detected temperature becomes considerably low. Therefore, its abnormal state can be detected by comparing the detected temperature with the reference temperature.

#### Embodiments

of the present utility model. The reference numeral 11 denotes a water temperature sensor mounted at a proper position on a cooling water path in an internal combustion engine, and 12 denotes a control unit for detecting a cooling water temperature, that is, an engine temperature as well as for diagnosing a fault of the water temperature sensor 11 based on the detection signal from the water temperature sensor 11. The control unit 12 executes various controls over the internal combustion engine, for example, fuel injection amount control, idle rotation speed control, and the like using the detected temperature.

The water temperature sensor 11 uses a negative characteristic thermistor as a sensor element, and one of the terminals thereof is connected to a point A of a temperature detection circuit 13 composed of a resistors  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ . The voltage at the point A is read via an A/D converter 14. A power supply voltage  $V_{cc}$  of about 5V is applied to the temperature detection circuit 13.

The control unit 12 is composed of a digital microcomputer, and mainly includes a CPU 15 for executing various calculations, a ROM 16 for storing control programs and fixed data, a RAM 17 for temporarily storing various kinds of data, an I/O port 18, an A/D converter 14 and the like.

Further, in this embodiment, a crank angle sensor 19 detects that the internal combustion engine has been started, and the output signal from the crank angle sensor 19 is input into the control unit 12.

Next, FIG. 3 is a flowchart of a fault diagnosis program executed in the control unit 12. Hereinafter, the steps in this flowchart will be described.

First, in Step 1, it is determined whether or not the internal combustion engine is rotating based on the output signal from the crank angle sensor 19. If the operation of the internal combustion engine is in a stopped state, the process proceeds to Steps 8 and 9 where a warming-up determining timer TMTWJ and an abnormality determining timer TMTWNG are cleared. If the internal combustion engine is in an operated state, the process proceeds to Step 2 where the warming-up determining timer TMTWJ is successively incremented. Therefore, the time elapsed after the internal combustion engine has been started is indicated as a value displayed on the warming-up determining timer TMTWJ.

In Step 3, it is determined whether or not the elapsed time, that is, the value displayed on the warming-up determining timer TMTWJ reaches a specified value TWJDLY. If the elapsed time has reached or exceeded the specified time TWJDLY, the process proceeds to Step 4 where the water temperature abnormality is determined. As a matter of course, although the specified time TWJDLY differs from individual internal combustion engine, it is about 5 to 8 minutes, for example.

In Step 4, it is determined whether or not the detected water temperature TW falls within a range between the upper limit temperature TWOK1 and the lower limit temperature TWOK2. The upper limit temperature TWOK1 is set at an extremely high temperature which is normally impossible as an internal combustion engine as is the case of conventional cases, and this setting enables to detect short-circuit of the water The lower limit temperature temperature sensor 11. TWOK2 is used for detecting the characteristic abnormality (including disconnection) in the water temperature sensor 11, and is set at a value corresponding to the lower limit of the engine temperature which may be resulted after the elapse of the specified time TWJDLY. As a matter of course, although this value also differs from the exhaust amount of the internal combustion engine or the elapsed time TWLDLY, it is about 20 to  $40\Box$ , for example.

For example, FIG. 4 shows a change in the cooling water temperature in the case where the internal combustion engine is started at the outside temperature of -300 and is left in an idling state. Specifically, the internal combustion engine is under the condition where an increase in the temperature after it is started is the most moderate. In this example, the cooling water temperature reaches about 500 after the elapse of 8 minutes since the internal combustion engine has been started. Therefore, in this example, the elapsed time TW may be set to 8 minutes and the lower limit temperature TWOK2 may be set to about 200 allowing for some deviations, for example.

In Step 4, if it is determined that the detected water temperature TW is out of the specified range between TWOK1 and TOWK2, the process proceeds to Step 5 where the abnormality determining timer TMTWNG is incremented. If it is determined that the detected water temperature TW falls within the range between TWOK1 and TWOK2, the process proceeds to Step 9 where the abnormality determining timer TMTWNG is cleared. When the value displayed on the abnormality determining timer TMTWNG reaches the specified value TWNGD, the process proceeds from Step 6 to Step 7 where the abnormality determining flag TWNG for indicating that the water temperature sensor 11 is in an abnormal state is set to "1". It is sufficient that the specified value TWNGD is set to several seconds, for example.

Effect of the utility model

As is obvious from the above description, the fault diagnosis device for the water temperature sensor according to the present utility model can securely detect not only the complete disconnection and short-circuit as is the case of the conventional devices, but also the characteristic abnormality which has occurred when the resistance of the water temperature sensor becomes large. Therefore, the reliability of various controls based on the temperature detected by the water temperature sensor can be further enhanced.

#### 4. Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a diagram corresponding to claims showing a structure of a fault diagnosis device according to the present utility model. FIG. 2 is a construction diagram showing an embodiment of the present utility model. FIG. 3 is a flowchart showing a fault diagnosis program in this embodiment. FIG. 4 is a characteristic diagram showing an example of a change in the water temperature after the internal combustion engine is started. FIG. 5 is a characteristic diagram showing a relationship between the resistance value and the water temperature of the water temperature sensor.

1: Water temperature sensor, 2: Internal combustion engine, 3: Timer means, 4: Comparison means

```
(FIG. 1)
1: Internal combustion engine
2: Water temperature sensor
3: Timer means
4: Reference temperature
5: Comparison means
(FIG. 3)
1: Start
2: Engine rotating?
3: TMTWJ increment
4: TMTWJ clear
5: Return
(FIG. 4)
1: Cooling water temperature (^{\circ}C)
2: Time elapsed after start-up (min.)
(FIG. 5)
3: Resistance (k\Omega)
4: When abnormal
```

5: When normal

6: Water temperature ( $^{\circ}$ C)

JP-U-61-099650 teaches a self-diagnosis and fail-safe apparatus for an engine coolant temperature detecting circuit. Each time coolant temperature is detected, a change of temperature in a unit time is calculated and compared with a reference value. If the calculated temperature change is abnormal, abnormality is indicated, and the previously detected temperature is used for various controls.

JP-U-02-050043 teaches a coolant temperature sensor diagnosis apparatus. When a predetermined time passes after an engine is started, a coolant temperature is detected and compared with a reference temperature, which is predetermined as a lowest limit which the coolant temperature should attain. If the detected temperature is lower than the reference temperature, a coolant temperature sensor is determined as abnormal.

JP-U-02-072343 teaches a coolant temperature detecting apparatus. When an engine coolant temperature is detected as being abnormal, the coolant temperature is estimated as increasing based on the time of operation of the engine after being started, and used in place of the detected temperature.

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◎ 公開実用新案公報(U) 平2-50043

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❸公開 平成2年(1990)4月6日

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水温センサの故障診断装置

顧 昭63-126673 到実

頭 昭63(1988)9月28日 匈出

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審查請求 未請求

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#### 明 細 許

1. 考案の名称

水温センサの故障診断装置

2. 実用新案登録請求の範囲

(1)サーミスタからなる水温センサを備えた内燃機関において、内燃機関の始動後所定時間経過したことを検出するタイマ手段と、この所定時間経過後に生じ得る機関温度の下限に相当する基準温度を有し、所定時間経過後の検出温度が上記基準温度以下のときに異常と判定する比較手段とを備えてなる水温センサの故障診断装置。

3. 考案の詳細な説明

産業上の利用分野

この考案は、内燃機関に取り付けられたサーミスタからなる水温センサの故障、詳しくはその特性異常の有無を診断する故障診断装置に関する。

従来の技術

近年の内燃機関においては、燃料噴射量制御や アイドル回転数制御あるいは点火時期制御など多 くの電子制御システムが実用化されているが、こ

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れらの制御の上で機関温度は非常に重要な要素の一つとなっている。この機関温度は、通常、機関冷却水温によって代表され、その検出には、一般に負特性サーミスタからなる水温センサが用いられている。

この種の水温センサの故障診断装置として、従来、例えば特開昭 5 4 1 9 2 6 号公報に記載で、例えば特開昭 5 4 1 9 2 6 号公報に記載でいる。これは、水温センン関節の大温を所定の基準電圧と比較することと、選挙に対して、基準電力に通過である。と判定するである。と判定するのである。と対しては、温をして、温をである。

考案が解決しようとする課題

しかし、上記従来の故障診断装置にあっては、水温センサが完全に断線し、あるいはショートし



ている状態しか検出することができない。

例えば、サーミスタからなる水温センサに過大電圧が印加されると、その抵抗値が正常時に比べて全体として大きくなり(第 5 図参照)、検出温度が大幅に狂ってしまうが、このような水温センサの特性異常は、上記従来のものでは検出することができない。

課題を解決するための手段

サーミスタからなる水温センサの特性異常は、 殆どの場合に、上記のように抵抗値が大となる変 化を示し、つまり検出温度が低温側に狂う。

そこで、この考案は上記のような傾向に着目し、ある程度内燃機関の暖機が進行した時点での検出温度が低ければ、水温センサが異常であると判定するようにしたものである。すなわち、この考案に係る水温センサの故障診断装置は、第1図に示すように、サーミスタからなる水温センサーを備える水温センサーを強力を強力を強力を強力で、内燃機関2の対象がで、内燃機関2において、内燃機関2の対象がで、内燃機関2において、内燃機関2の対象がではあるタイマ手段3と、この所定時間経過後に生じ得る機関温度の下限に

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相当する基準温度を有し、所定時間経過後の検出温度が上記基準温度以下のときに異常と判定する 比較手段4とを備えて構成されている。

#### 作用

内燃機関2を始動してから所定時間経過後の機関温度は実験的に求められる。勿論、これは外気温等によって異なるので、通常の使用条件で最も温度上昇が低い場合を想定し、これに若干の余裕を見込んで、その下限温度を基準温度とすれば良い。

水温センサーが過大電圧の印加等によって特性 異常を来していれば、検出温度がかなり低くなる ので、上記基準温度と比較することによって、そ の異常の検出ができる。

#### 実施 例

第2図は、この考案の一実施例を示す構成説明 図であって、11は内燃機関の冷却水経路の適宜 位置に装着された水温センサ、12はこの水温センサ11の検出信号に基づいて冷却水温つまり機 関温度を検出するとともにその故障診断を行うコ



ントロールユニットを示している。尚、このコントロールユニット12は、その検出温度を利用して内燃機関の種々の制御、例えば燃料噴射量制御やアイドル回転数制御等を行うものである。

上記水温センサー1は、センサ素子として負特性のサーミスタを用いたものであり、抵抗R1、R2からなる温度検出回路 13のA点に一方の端子が接続されており、このA点の電圧がA/D変換器 14を介して読み込まれるようになっている。尚、温度検出回路 13には約5 V程度の電源電圧Vccが印加されている。

コントロールユニット 1 2 は、デジタルマイクロコンピュータからなり、種々の演算処理を行うCPU 1 5、制御プログラムや間定的なデータが格納されたROM 1 6、種々のデータの一時的な記憶を行うRAM 1 7、 1 / Oボート 1 8、 A / D 変換器 1 4 などを主体として構成されている。

また、この実施例では内燃機関が始動されたことをクランク角センサ19にて検出するようにしており、その出力信号が上記コントロールユニッ

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ト12に入力されている。

次に第3図は、上記コントロールユニット12 において実行される故障診断プログラムのフロー チャートであり、以下これを説明する。

先ず、ステップ1ではクランク角センサ19の 出力信号に基づいて内燃機関が回転中であるかれて かを判定している。内燃機関の運転が停止されている場合には、ステップ8,9へ進み、暖機判定用タイマTMTWJおよび異常判定用タイマTMTWJ TWNGをクリアする。また運転中であればステップ2へ進み、暖機判定用タイマTMTWJを順次インクリメントする。従って、内燃機関の始めの値として示される。

ステップ3では、この経過時間つまり吸機判定用タイマTMTWJの値が所定値TWJDLYに遠したか判定しており、所定時間TWJDLY経過後であればステップ4へ進んで水温異常判定を行う。上記の所定時間TWJDLYは、内燃機関によって勿論異なるものとなるが、例えば5~8



分程度である。

ステップイでは、検出された水温TWが、上限温度TWOK1~下限温度TWOK2の範囲内にあるかどうかを判定する。上限温度TWOK1は、従来のものと同様に、機関温度としてルによってきない温度に設定されており、これにがである。また下限温度TWOK2は、水温センサ11のショートを検出するためのもまた下限温度TWOK2は、水はするたけののまた。所定時間TWJDLY経過である。この人ので程度である。

例えば第4図は、ある内燃機関を外気温 30 ℃の条件下で始動し、かつアイドル状態で放置した場合の冷却水温の変化を示している。つまり破も始動後の温度上昇が緩慢となる条件にあるが、この例では、始動後8分経過時点で約50℃に到達している。従って、この例では、経過時間TW

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J D L Yを例えば8分とし、かつ下限温度TWO K 2 を、ある程度の余裕を見込んで20℃程度に 設定すれば良い。

ステップ4で検出水温TWが所定範囲TWOK 1~TWOK2外にあると判定した場合にはステ ップ5へ進み、異常判定用タイマTMTWNGを インクリメントし、またTWOK1~TWOK2 内であればステップ9へ進んで同タイマTMTW NGをクリアする。そして、この異常判定用タイ マTMTWNGの値が所定値TWNGDに達センサ 11が異常であることを示す異常判定フラグTW NGを11」とする。尚、上記のTWNGDは、 例えば数秒程度で足りる。

#### 考案の効果

以上の説明で明らかなように、この考案に係る水温センサの故障診断装置によれば、従来のように完全な断線状態やショートのみでなく、水温センサの抵抗が大となった特性異常を確実に検出することができる。従って、水温センサの検出温度



を基礎とした各種制御の信頼性を一層高めること ができる。

#### 4. 図面の簡単な説明。

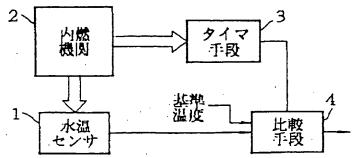
第1図はこの考案に係る故障診断装置の構成を示すクレーム対応図、第2図はこの考案の一実施例を示す構成説明図、第3図はこの実施例における故障診断プログラムを示すフローチャート、第4図は始動後の水温変化の一例を示す特性図、第5図は水温センサの抵抗値と水温との関係を示す特性図である。

1 …水温センサ、2 …内燃機関、3 …タイマチ段、4 …比較手段。

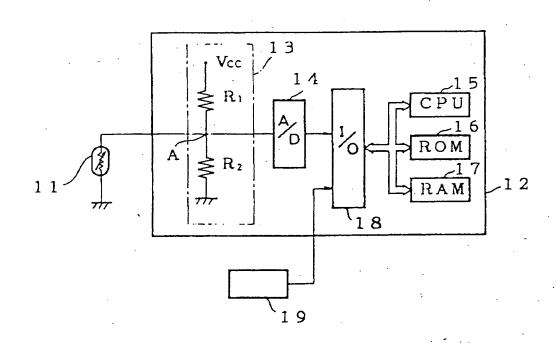
代理人 志 賀 富 上 弥 建筑 外 2 名

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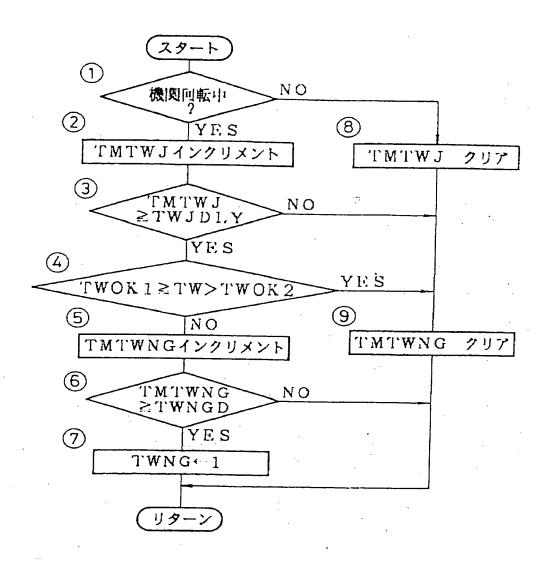
第 1 図



### 第 2 図



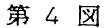
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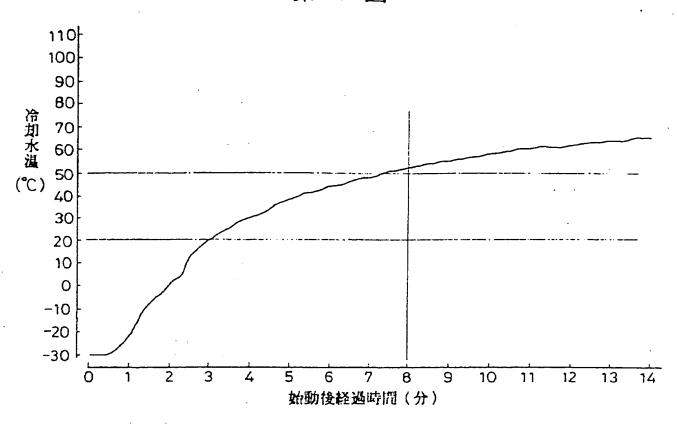


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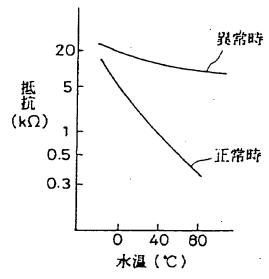
代理人弁理士 志賀富士弥

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第 5 図



JQQ4

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